

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00345 221925Z

53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 221857Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6705

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 0345

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR

B L E S Y E G X F

SUBJECT: LEBANON AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 016199, AMMAN 0344

1. HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BOTH KING AND RIFAI AS INDICATED  
PARA 4 AMMAN REFTEL.

2. KING SAYS HE HAS JUST TALKED WITH ASAD AGAIN BY PHONE THIS  
EVENING AND THAT ASAD INDICATED THAT SITUATION SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING  
ASAD SAID HE WOULD PERSONALLY SELECT 75 SYRIAN OFFICER PARTICI-  
PANTS IN GROUP TO OVERSEE CEASEFIRE. KING SAID BE BELIEVES  
THAT LEBANESE ARE GOING ALONG. RIFAI TOLD ME THAT WHILE FRANJIEH  
HAS ACCEPTED SYRIAN PROPOSAL IN NAME OF ALL LEBANESE CHRISTIANS,  
BOTH CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL ARE DRAGGING THEIR FEET SOMEWHAT.  
AS A RESULT JORDANIANS WILL TRY THROUGH THEIR OWN CHANNELS TO  
PUT MAXIMUM HEAT ON THOSE TWO TO GO ALONG WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT  
AND STOP SENSELESS BLOODSHED (RIFAI SAID: "WHY DOES IT ALWAYS  
HAVE TO BE OUR FRIENDS?") HE ASKED IF WE HAD ANYWAY  
OF INFLUENCING THOSE TWO, NOW WOULD BE THE TIME TO DO IT AS THEY  
HOLD THE KEY TO THE NEXT FEW HOURS. I SAID OF COURSE I WOULD  
PASS THIS INFORMATION AND WAS SURE WE WERE DOING ALL WE COULD  
TO SUPPORT THIS SYRIAN EFFORT.

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3. ON SYRIAN STAYING POWER, WHAT JORDANIANS HAD TO SAY  
REFLECTS FULLY DICK MURPHY'S REPORT AND ASSESSMENT(DAMASCUS 0368)  
WHICH I HAVE JUST SEEN. KING SAID THAT ASAD SEEMED CONFIDENT  
THIS EFFORT WOULD SUCCEED AND THAT SYRIANS WERE GOING ALL OUT TO  
MAKE IT WORK. RIFAI TOLD ME THE SYRIANS CLAIMED THEY HAD TWISTED  
ARMS HEAVILY WITH JUMBLATT AND OTHERS TO GET THEM TO COME ALONG.  
BOTH THOUGHT SYRIANS WOULD PERSIST IN THEIR EFFORTS  
EVEN IF INITIAL TRY AT CEASEFIRE DID NOT WORK OUT. BOTH THOUGHT  
KHADDAM WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO WORK IN BEIRUT AS LONG AS IT  
WAS CONCEIVABLY POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE SOMETHING. BUT IF IT FAILED,  
RIFAI IN PARTICULAR WAS HARD IN PREDICTING A CATASTROPHIC  
SITUATION WITH LITTLE TIME AND ROOM TO RECOVER. I DID  
NOT MENTION TO EITHER THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER STEP BY ANYONE  
ELSE.

4. BOTH WERE PREOCCUPIED BY ISRAELI POSITION AND URGED US  
ALSO TO OPEN UP ALL THE STOPS IN KEEPING ISRAEL CALM. RIFAI  
SAID PLA RATIONALE FOR ENTERING THE FRAY FROM SYRIA WAS TO  
SHAKE MARONITES TO POINT WHERE THEY WOULD BUY A CEASEFIRE.  
SYRIAN POSITION IN ALL OF THIS IS THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO MOSLEM  
WINNERS OR LOOSERS NOR SHOULD THERE SIMILARLY BE ANY CHRISTIAN  
WINNERS OR LOOSERS. KING SAID HE HOPED WE COULD CONVEY TO  
ISRAELIS FEELING ON HIS PART THAT SYRIANS ARE ACTING EFFECTIVELY  
AND IN GOOD FAITH AND THAT ALL OF THEIR STEPS AS HE HAS SEEN THEM  
HAVE BEEN TO BRING SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. KING SAID HE WAS  
DOING ALL HE COULD TO TRY TO GET THAT MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE  
OTHER SIDE.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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